



News Release

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DGS honors public procurement professionals, teams

~ Xcelerator Awards presented at 2016 Public Procurement Forum ~

Virginia Beach, VA –The Department of General Services' Division of Purchases and Supply on Monday recognized public procurement professionals whose achievements have advanced the process for purchasing goods and services in the Commonwealth.

The division presented the Procurement Xcelerator Awards to individuals and teams during a luncheon at the 2016 Public Procurement Forum at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. In its third year, the awards program recognizes how procurement is used to meet the strategic goals of public agencies and to highlight the outstanding contributions of employees at state agencies, local governments and institutions of higher education in advancing efficiency and effectiveness in their supply chains.

The 2016 Procurement Xcelerator Award winners include:

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- **Procurement Achievement Award** _ Recognizes a professional whose efforts have had a significant impact on the wider organization or secured procurement a seat at the management table:
 - Steven K. VonCanon of the Virginia Department of Health has initiated significant change at his agency by improving service performance and streamlining procedures and processes to enable the agency to better manage contracts. He also oversaw the replacement of a central warehouse with an ordering strategy to save cost and eliminate merchandise storage and spearheaded a major building renovation project in the wake of a fire at the

department's headquarters.

- **Career Achievement Award** _ Recognizes a longtime procurement professional whose achievements showcase innovation, adeptness at applying procurement principles to solve difficult issues or advancing public procurement:
 - Teresa M. Hudgins of the Virginia State Police has been involved in numerous complex, high-profile and highly-impactful procurement projects throughout her more than 30 years in state government. She led a \$300 million statewide radio communications project in which she earned the VITA project manager certification and currently is serving as program administration manager and project manager for additional project phases valued at nearly \$15 million. Hudgins has served in various positions on the board of the Capital Area Purchasing Association.

TEAM/AGENCY AWARDS

- **Collaboration Award** _ Recognizes a team that has worked with another department from the same organization or with an external agency or supplier to deliver a successful project or initiative:
 - The Procurement Services Team at the University of Mary Washington worked to improve value of procurement and achieve departmental goals by strategically aligning its staff with departments across the organization. The Client Relationship Management model was paired with the introduction of a Contract Management System to provide client departments with additional tools to successfully manage and monitor contracts. To further support departmental operations and enhance collaboration, procurement implemented a monthly dashboard to document savings, cost avoidance and other metrics. A second phase is planned for 2017.
- **Learning and Development Award** _ Recognizes an organization that is using learning and development to solve a specific problem in the procurement organization or to address an upcoming challenge:
 - The Office of Purchasing and General Services at the Virginia Department of Health made an executive-level, agency-wide commitment to deliver standardized procurement training across the decentralized organization. Working with the Virginia Institute of Procurement and DGS account executives, the agency identified areas of procurement and contracting that needed improvement. The agency has experienced improved communications and enhanced service delivery from procurement to end user departments. Additionally, internal audit findings are reduced and adherence to small purchase requirements is increased as buyers choose and implement the correct buying procedures.
- **Statewide Electronic Procurement “eVA” Award** _ Recognizes a team that successfully used eVA to advance procurement in the agency:
 - The Procurement Services Team at James Madison University leveraged eVA

data to innovate, provide better customer service and drive efficiencies across the organization, such as reorganizing the department into commodity teams to speed order processing, balance workload and deliver timely customer service. It also supports cross training of buyers to broaden their procurement knowledge and skills to be a stronger procurement team.

For more information about the Division of Purchases and Supply or 2016 Forum, visit www.dgs.virginia.gov.

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